

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim listing replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A data storage method for reading, from a recording medium, a plurality of pieces of audio data for execution of playback by a playback device, with a plurality of pieces of management information each corresponding to one of the pieces of audio data, and storing the read pieces of audio data into a storage unit of the playback device, the storage unit having a management information area for storing management information and an audio data area for storing audio data, the method sequentially comprising:

a default setting step of setting a capacity of the audio data area by a control unit of the playback device,

a management information storing step of sequentially storing pieces of read management information and storing specifying information specifying a storage location of each of the pieces of read management information into the management information area of the storage unit;

a re-setting step of decreasing the capacity of the audio data area if the management information area becomes full before all pieces of read management information are stored; and

an audio data storing step of storing the pieces of read audio data into the audio data area having the capacity effective upon completion of the reading of management information from the recording medium,

wherein ~~data length of data space available for~~ each piece of management information stored in the management information area of the storage unit is variable according to an amount of information included in each piece of management information.

11. (Previously presented) The data storage method according to Claim 10, wherein the management information storing step and the re-setting step are repeated until the reading of management information from the recording medium ends.

12. (Previously presented) The data storage method according to Claim 10, wherein the pieces of read management information are recorded starting from a starting address of the storage unit, and

the pieces of read audio data are recorded starting from an address contiguous to an end address of the pieces of management information on the storage unit.

13. (Previously presented) The data storage method according to Claim 10, wherein the pieces of read audio data are recorded starting from a starting address of the storage unit, and

the pieces of read management information are recorded starting from an address contiguous to an end address of the pieces of audio data on the storage unit.

14. (Previously presented) The data storage method according to Claim 10, wherein each piece of management information indicates a file name of a corresponding piece of audio data.

15. (Previously presented) The data storage method according to Claim 10, wherein the plurality of pieces of audio data are compressed using a predetermined compression format.

16. (Previously presented) The data storage method according to Claim 10, wherein the recording medium is an optical disc medium.

17. (Previously presented) The data storage method according to Claim 10, wherein in the re-setting step, the capacity of the audio data area is decreased to a size larger than a predetermined capacity.

18. (Previously presented) The data storage method according to Claim 10, wherein the audio area is set to be an area of the storage unit other than an area used to store pieces of management information at a time when the reading of management information from the recording medium completes.

19. (Previously presented) The data storage method according to Claim 10, further comprising:

a minimum setting step of setting a minimum capacity of the audio data area, wherein if the capacity of the audio data area after the decrease to be performed in the re-setting step is calculated to be a size smaller than the minimum capacity, the reading of management

information is ended so that no more pieces of management information is read from the recording medium.

20. (Previously presented) The data storage method according to Claim 10, wherein the specifying information includes a length and a start address of each of the pieces of read management information.

21. (Currently amended) A data storage method for reading, from a recording medium, a plurality of pieces of audio data for execution of playback by a playback device, with a plurality of pieces of management information each corresponding to one of the pieces of audio data, and storing the read pieces of audio data into a storage unit of the playback device, the storage unit having a management information area for storing management information and an audio data area for storing audio data, the method sequentially comprising:

a default setting step of setting a capacity of the audio data area by a control unit of the playback device,

a management information storing step of sequentially storing pieces of read management information and storing specifying information specifying a storage location of each of the pieces of read management information into the management information area of the storage unit;

a re-setting step of increasing the capacity of the audio data area by re-defining each part of the management information area storing no management information as an additional part of the audio data area if all pieces of read management information are stored; and

an audio data storing step of storing the pieces of read audio data into the audio data area having the capacity effective upon completion of the reading of management information from the recording medium,

wherein ~~data length of~~ data space available for each piece of management information stored in the management information area of the storage unit is variable according to an amount of information included in each piece of management information.

22. (Previously presented) The data storage method according to Claim 21, wherein the specifying information includes a length and a start address of each of the pieces of read management information.

23. (Previously presented) The data storage method according to Claim 21, wherein the pieces of read management information are recorded starting from a starting address of the storage unit, and

the pieces of read audio data are recorded starting from an address contiguous to an end address of the pieces of management information on the storage unit.

24. (Previously presented) The data storage method according to Claim 21, wherein the pieces of read audio data are recorded starting from a starting address of the storage unit, and

the pieces of read management information are recorded starting from an address contiguous to an end address of the pieces of audio data on the storage unit.

25. (Previously presented) The data storage method according to Claim 21, wherein each piece of management information indicates a file name of a corresponding piece of audio data.

26. (Previously presented) The data storage method according to Claim 21, wherein the plurality of pieces of audio data are compressed using a predetermined compression format.

27. (Previously presented) The data storage method according to Claim 21, wherein the recording medium is an optical disc medium.